

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina

SUBJECT Organization of the Supply Committee for the Middle Region
25X1C

REPORT NO.

DATE DISTR. 2 June 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

REQUIREMENT NO. 25X1

REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The Supply Committee for the Middle Region (Ban Tiep-lieu Trung-Du)¹ was created in October 1952, for the purpose of supplying the Middle Region with products necessary to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) resistance. This committee is located at Giang Tien, Thai Nguyen Province, and is organized as follows:

Chief Bui Quoc Thuy

Deputy Chief Pham Van Than

Chinese Advisers There are two Chinese advisers, formerly merchants in Hanoi, whose role is to maintain liaison with different echelons of the Chinese Communist Office of Commercial Exchange in Vietnam.

a. Sub-Committee for Administration

Chief Nguyen Van Khoa

Deputy Chief Le Dinh Vien

b. Sub-Committee for Bookkeeping, headed by Nguyen Van Thai.

c. Sub-Committee for Commercial Exchange, headed by Le Quang. There are about 40 people in this sub-committee which is very mobile. It directs the Provincial Exchange Committees of Vinh - Phu Yen and Bac Ninh - Bac Giang. The former committee is headed by Le Phu and the latter by Nguyen Thanh.

d. Sub-Committee for Transport, headed by Le Van Hai. This sub-committee has sampans at its disposal for river transport, but most of the transport is done by coolies.

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e. Sub-Committee for Depots. The depots are secret and numerous. There are principle depots, most of which are located in Dong Hy District, Thai Nguyen Province, and secondary depots which are scattered in guerrilla centers. However, because of the slackening of commercial exchange between the French and DRV-controlled zones, the depots are not important.

2. The activities of the Supply Committee and the Sub-committees consist of selling to the French-controlled zone such products as tea, opium, ²ia nan and Chinese pharmaceutical products, and buying such products as medicines, chemical products, explosive materials, and typewriters. However, activities have been greatly reduced since the end of 1952. It appears that the committee recently received an order to obtain supplies of opium, tea and medicinal plants for the Chinese Communist Committee for Commercial Exchange which is located at Ha Giang.

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1. Comment. It appears that the Middle Region refers to the central part of North Vietnam, including Thai Nguyen Province.

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2. Comment. It is not known what ia nan means.

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